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FOIA

16 JAN 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Legislative Counsel

FROM: John N. McMahon
Deputy Director for Operations

SUBJECT: Amendments to the Freedom of Information Act.

REFERENCE: OLC Memorandum # 77-5748, dated 30 December 1977.

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1. This responds to referent request for comments and suggestions on possible amendments to the Freedom of Information Act.

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2. The Directorate has in the past contributed to a number of Agency memoranda concerning the impact of the Freedom of Information Act on Directorate activity. Additional experience in coping with the provisions of the Act has confirmed the observations in those earlier memoranda, among which we note particularly from last year OGC 77-2225 and OGC 77-2759.

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3. We further note the nearly 65 percent increase in Freedom of Information requests in 1977 as compared with 1976. Much of the work which is responsive to FOIA requests falls to this Directorate, which has observed that most requests now originate with readily discernible categories of persons. Among them are members of the media. The selective publicity given to portions of material released under the Act has, we know from field station commentary, begun to erode confidence in the Directorate's ability to protect both operational and intelligence information.

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